



Postal Regulatory Commission
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January 30, 2020

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268

RE: Docket RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of St. Francis House, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates beyond the current Consumer Price Index cap. The proposed new rates could escalate as much as 40 percent over a five-year period, which would have a devastating effect on our ability to assist adults experiencing homelessness by providing refuge and pathways to stable life. St. Francis House is a welcoming and inclusive community. Every day of the year, we enable individuals to meet their basic needs for food, clothing and shelter. We transform lives using a holistic approach to understanding and addressing behavioral health, housing and employment needs. We commit ourselves to helping those we serve achieve renewed lives of dignity and self-determination.

Today, we rely heavily on direct mail for much of our fundraising. We currently raise \$1.5M dollars for our Annual Fund through the 340,000 pieces of mail we send out each year. The money raised for our Annual Fund directly effects the lives of the 4,989 people who come to us each year in search of building a better life for themselves.

The proposed change would greatly devalue our use of postal mail and would inevitably lead us to a further migration from mail to alternative means of fundraising. This would lead to the further erosion of the United State Postal Service, a very important agency for the nonprofit sector.

Postage increases by 40 percent over the next five years would have a detrimental effect on our mission and the lives of those we serve. St. Francis House urges the Postal Regulatory Commission to reconsider its proposal.

Sincerely,

Janelle Coleman
Director, Annual Fund

Rebuilding Lives